10/511078
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In the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) ~~Device (4)~~ A device for adjusting and testing the axial force in screw joints, wherein the device includes a check device for limiting an axial force operating between force-applying elements of the screw joint, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the check device has means ~~(4, 5)~~ for signal value pick-up from a measuring element ~~(2)~~ whose electrical resistance is variable as a function of the operative axial force.

Claim 2 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it has~~ comprising a component ~~(2)~~ for fixing a rotatable force-applying element.

Claim 3 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the fixing component ~~(3) includes~~ comprises means ~~(4, 5)~~ for signal pick-up.

Claim 4 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the means ~~(4, 5)~~ for signal value pick-up ~~have~~ comprise contacts for galvanic, capacitive or inductive signal value transmission.

Claim 5 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the means for signal value pickup ~~are~~ is designed for the simultaneous measurement of one or more signal values.

Claim 6 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 2, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the component ~~(3)~~ fixing a rotatable force-applying element is designed for fixing a bolt head ~~(7),~~ or a nut ~~(8) or the like~~ and the means ~~(4, 5)~~ for signal value pick-up ~~are~~ is likewise accommodated in the component ~~(3)~~ for fixing a rotatable force-applying element for contacting a washer ~~(2)~~ arranged between the force-applying elements.

Claim 7 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the device provides an electrical connection to the electrical earth terminal to the measuring element ~~(3)~~.

Claim 8 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the screw joint ~~includes~~ comprises force-applying elements ~~(7, 8)~~ or connecting elements ~~(9)~~ between the force-applying elements made of wood, metal or plastic.

Claim 9 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 2, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the fixing component ~~(3)~~ is designed for fixing recessed-head, slotted-head, hexagon, square and Allen-key bolts or the like.

Claim 10 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ a device for acoustic or optical indication ~~(10)~~ of adjusted axial force values is provided.